

60,130-1120
01MRA0246REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the remarks and analysis contained in the Office Action. Applicant appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter. New claim 22 presents claim 5 rewritten in independent form. New claim 24 presents claim 17 rewritten in independent form. Claims 1-3, 9, 10, 14, 18 and 21 are amended above. Applicant respectfully request reconsideration of this application.

Applicant encloses a proposed correction to Figure 3 indicating h_1 instead of h_2 . Upon receiving a notice of allowance in this case, Applicant will submit formal drawings including this correction.

Applicant respectfully submits that none of the claims can be anticipated or considered obvious in view of the *Pierce, et al.* patent. *Pierce, et al.* specifically teach that the bumpers 510 and 508 are "off-of-center." Accordingly, they are not coaxially aligned and none of the claims are anticipated.

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 18-21 cannot be considered anticipated by the *Charles* patent. *Charles* specifically teaches that the bump plate 114 is rigid (see, for example, column 3, lines 57-58). Accordingly, *Charles* does not teach an arrangement having first and second elastomeric portions.

Applicant respectfully submits that this case is in condition for allowance.

Applicant believes that additional fees in the amount of \$226.00 are required for two additional independent claims and three claims in excess of twenty. The Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482 in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds in the amount of \$226.00. The Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account

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No. 50-1482 in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds for any additional fees or credit the
account for any overpayment

Respectfully submitted,

CARLSON, GASKEY & OLDS

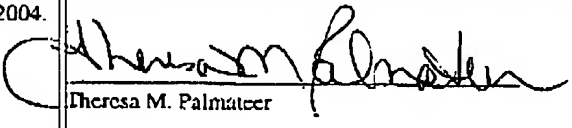
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Dated: January 5, 2004

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office (Fax No. (703) 872-9806) on January 5, 2004.


Theresa M. Palmatier

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